

Serial No.: 10/083,973
Amendment Dated: December 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for closely controlling the temperature of perishable goods in a mobile container having a refrigeration unit for delivering conditioned air into a mixing chamber located adjacent the front wall of the container, said apparatus including:
a pair of supply air plenum chambers extending rearwardly from the mixing chamber toward the rear of the container along the sidewalls of the container that are arranged to receive supply air from said mixing chamber, one wall of each plenum being spaced apart from an adjacent side wall of said container and being formed by a stacked row of air permeable cartons containing said perishable produce,
fan means for delivering supply air from said mixing chamber into said

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plenum chambers at a volume rate of flow that is high enough to force the supply air into heat transfer relation with said produce contained in said cartons,

a gas generator located within the mixing chamber for introducing a ripening agent into the conditioned air at the beginning of a ripening cycle,

a fresh air exchanger unit which is normally in a closed condition to retain the conditioned air within said container during said ripening cycle and to exchange conditioned air with ambient air when placed in an open condition at the conclusion of said ripening cycle, and

control means for activating the gas generator at the beginning of a ripening cycle and for automatically deactivating the gas generator at the end of a ripening cycle; and

control means for determining when said gas generator is deactivated and responsively and automatically placing the fresh air exchanger unit in an open condition for a given period of time to vent the ripening agent from said container and automatically closing the fresh air exchanger when the ripening agent has been vented to ambient.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said fan means includes a series of fan units mounted in vertically aligned stacks at an entrance to each supply air chamber.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said mixing chamber contains a return air inlet through which conditioned air within the container is drawn by said fan means back into the mixing chamber.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein each plenum chamber further includes a horizontal pressure bar secured to an adjacent side wall of the container and a movable vertical pressure bar for adjusting the length of the plenum chamber.

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13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 that further includes drain means mounted in the floor of the container that is connected to the control means for placing the drain means in a closed position wherein moisture is maintained within the container during a ripening cycle and an open position wherein moisture in the container is released to the surrounding atmosphere.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said drain means further include a plurality of drains, each drain having remotely controlled drain valves for opening and closing said drain.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said fan means are connected to said control means which is programmed to activate the fan units in a given order.